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<u>Listing of Claims</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

1. (currently amended) A method for securely communicating financial

information, comprising:

receiving over an electronic computer network a ~~coded~~ message

~~comprising an entry in a specified field of~~ <u>communicated according to</u> a field

delimited communication protocol <u>pursuant to which the message comprises a</u>

<u>financial data field and a field value corresponding to the financial data field and</u>

<u>the message has a standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited</u>

<u>communication protocol;</u>

and interpreting said ~~coded~~ message <u>according to a coded meaning</u> ~~to have~~

~~a meaning different from a publicly-known meaning for entries in said specified~~

~~field~~ <u>defined to be different than the standard, publicly-known meaning within the</u>

<u>field delimited communication protocol.</u>

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the field delimited

communication protocol is the Financial Information Exchange (FIX) Protocol, or a

protocol derived therefrom.

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3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~message~~ communicates a number of shares ordered or offered ~~specified field is an order-value field~~.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~specified~~ financial data field ~~comprises~~ is a FIX tag 38 entry.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~encoded message~~ coded meaning ~~corresponds to~~ communicates a number of shares of a financial transaction to which the message pertains that is different than the standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~encoded~~ message corresponds to an Indication of Interest (IOI) for a number of shares.

7. (currently amended) A method for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

encoding a message ~~comprising an entry in a specified field of~~ communicated in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the financial data field, in which the message has a standard, publicly-known meaning within the field

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<u>delimited communication protocol in which the message would ordinarily be interpreted</u>

<u>to have a standard, publicly-known meaning</u>, ~~wherein said encoded message is intended~~

to have a meaning different from ~~a~~ the <u>standard,</u> publicly-known meaning ~~for entries in~~

~~said specified filed~~; and

transmitting said encoded message over an electronic computer network.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the field delimited

communication protocol is the Financial Information Exchange (FIX) Protocol, or a

protocol derived therefrom.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the <u>message</u>

<u>represents a number of shares ordered or offered</u> ~~specified field is an order value~~

~~field~~.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~specified field~~

<u>financial data field</u> ~~comprises~~ <u>is</u> a FIX tag 38 entry.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~encoded~~

message corresponds to a number of shares <u>of a financial transaction to which the</u>

<u>message pertains</u> .

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12. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the encoded message

corresponds to an Indication of Interest (IOI) for a number of shares.

13. (currently amended) A method for securely communicating financial

information, comprising:

receiving over a first electronic computer network a first message, said first

message comprising a first entry in a specified field of in a field delimited

communication protocol pursuant to which the first message comprises a first financial

data field and a first field value corresponding to the first financial data field, in which

the message has a standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited

communication protocol;

transmitting over a second electronic computer network, a second message, said

second message comprising a second entry in said specified field of said in the field

delimited communication protocol comprising a second financial data field and a second

field value corresponding to the second financial data field, in which the second message

has a standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication

protocol; and

at least one of said first and second messages being encoded, wherein each

encoded message is intended to have a meaning different from a the standard,

publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol,

publicly-known meaning for entries in said specified field;

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wherein, said first and second electronic network, ~~said first and second entries,~~ and said first and second messages are not necessarily distinct.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the field delimited communication protocol is the Financial Information Exchange (FIX) Protocol, or a protocol derived therefrom.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the ~~specified~~ <u>first</u> <u>and second financial data fields</u> ~~field is an~~ <u>are</u> order value field<u>s</u>.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the ~~encoded~~ <u>first</u> <u>and second</u> message<u>s</u> corresponds to a number of shares <u>of a financial transaction to</u> <u>which the messages pertain</u>.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the ~~encoded~~ <u>first</u> message corresponds to an Indication of Interest (IOI) for a number of shares.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, ~~wherein said first and~~ ~~second messages are both encoded~~, further comprising:

determining whether corresponding entries ~~in said specified field~~ <u>first field</u> <u>value and the second field value</u> ~~of said first and second messages~~ match; and

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if the match is successful, transmitting a notification to one or more

broker/dealers.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the transmitted notification is

not encoded.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said first message

is encoded, and wherein said ~~transmitting~~ transmitted notification is made to a

plurality of receivers, further comprising:

receiving from a receiver a reply to said second message; and

determining whether the first field value and the second field value

~~corresponding entries in the specified field of the first message and said reply~~ match.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein if the match is successful,

transmitting a notification to one or more broker dealers.

22. (currently amended) An apparatus for securely communicating financial

information, comprising:

a receiver for receiving over an electronic computer network a ~~coded~~

message ~~comprising an entry~~ communicated in a ~~specified field of~~ a field

delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial

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data field and a field value corresponding to the financial data field and the message has a standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol, wherein the message is coded to have a meaning different than the standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol; and

an interpreter for interpreting said coded the message to have a the meaning different from a the standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol.

23. (currently amended) An apparatus for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

an encoder for encoding a message comprising an entry in a specified field of a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the field of financial data and has a standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol, wherein said encoded message is intended to have a meaning different from a the standard, publicly-known meaning for entries in said specified field; and

a transmitter for transmitting said encoded message over an electronic computer network.

24. (currently amended) An apparatus for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

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a receiver for receiving over a first electronic computer network a first

message, said first message ~~comprising a first entry in a specified field of a~~

communicated in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the

message comprises a first financial data field and a first field value corresponding to the

financial data field and has a standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited

communication protocol;

a transmitter for transmitting over a second electronic computer network, a

second message, said second message ~~comprising a second entry in said specified~~

~~field of said~~ communicated in the field delimited communication protocol

pursuant to which the message comprises a first financial data field and a first field value

corresponding to the field of financial data and has a standard, publicly-known meaning

under the field delimited communication protocol; and

at least one of said first and second messages being encoded, wherein each

encoded message is intended to have a meaning different from ~~a~~ the standard, publicly-

known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol;

wherein, said first and second electronic network, said first and second

entries, and said first and second messages are not necessarily distinct.

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